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If according to universal agreement the duties of Parents to their Children are of the highest importance in the scale of human obligations equally so & equally just are the duties which Children owe to their Parents: for every blessing that we enjoy may be in some degree ascribed to the authors of our existence. It is they who under Providence ushered us into

the World: it was their care & solicitude which nurtured & pro-tected us in the helpless days of Infancy, when our limbs were weak & we knew not any mode of obtaining our subsistence it was they who trained us up in principles of morality & Religion- smoothed the rough road to in-struction cherished the first buds-dings of our minds till they- gathered strength and produced fruit and then led us into the fields of enterprize to struggle with ellen and to make our own way in the Professions we have chosen to pursue - in whatever point of view we consider this- subject we cannot but be satis fied that whatever is great noble or praise worthy in our charact-er we have been derived from their care & have been cherished and respected by their exertions when we consider their reasons (& others which will suggest themselves to the mind) for gratitude & love towards our parents the heart

warms with tender emotions and we are almost tempted to pay them an homage, which belongs not to human beings but should be addressed only to our Creator & Preserver we are overwhelmed by the weight and the variety of obligations that we owe them & can find no words to express in proper terms our thanks for all their favours. There is but one method of making any suitable return & that is by so conducting ourselves in every action of our lives as to prove that we have reaped the full benefit of their care and their Labour. This then should be a principle of duty a rule for exertion which should occasion our most strenuous efforts in the career of Existence whatever powers they have exerted in unfolding whatever Lessons their Experience has taught us, ~~we should~~ we ought endeavour to the best of our abilities.

But though we can by no means

repay our Parents for all their care & solicitude in cherishing & preserving us through the earlier part of our Existence yet there are certain returns of duty affection & respect that we owe them which however insufficient to express our ~~great~~ affection it would nevertheless be the basest ingratitude to withhold amongst these may be placed Obedience. We do not consider that obedience is a duty which children only are to pay to their Parents for though it may be more explicitly expected from them because without it as reason has not yet assumed her throne in their minds it would be impossible to proceed in any plan of Education yet it is in a great degree due to our Parents, in every period of our lives both because they have a right to direct our course in the World and because their experience may be of great advantage in maturer age our plans for life.

Need we mention the degree of respect that we owe them that it should be heightened by love almost to reverence that it should never be forgotten either in word or deed we trust that it is unnecessary. That heart must be

callous and that judgment weak which can ever fail in venera-ting a Parent his idea as well as his presence will ever live in the Imagination And objects oth-erwise indifferent will acquire ~~with regard~~ a degree of interest from their connexion with him we can enjoy no higher gratifica-tion then when we visit the Tombs of a long line of our Fathers. The Dwellings which they inhabited the Trees which have waved over their heads for ages. their favorite pla-ces of resort and pastime. the cool-ing Streams & which often refresh-ed the Lands which were cultivated under their direction & the honors that crowned their Brows in the midst of their Retirement. bring a veneration to the Soul for every-inanimate thing once subject to their notice or control. how much more then do we owe it to the ~~living~~ immediate Author of our Existence from whom we have re-ceived the power to enjoy & the mea-ns to make ourselves worthy respec-table in the world.

It may be in our power to assist our Parents with pecu-niary

and fortune may have dealt hardly with them and they from whom we derive the power of being respectable may no longer possess the means of supporting their own standing in the World with what pleasure will the child divide his own resources for their relief & embrace the opportunity of repaying some of the obligations for which he is indebted to them. in case in sorrow or in sickness how great will be his anxiety to alleviate their mental or bodily anguish. we will not admit the fallacy that any conduct of the Parent can ever discharge the child from his duties towards him. Though our education may have been neglected our wants disregarded may though they have taken pains to bring us up in vice and folly. even should they be infamous from their conduct and their crimes. Yet the child must continue to owe them a vast debt of gratitude which with all his efforts he can never fully discharge. It would then be his duty to ~~It would then be his duty~~ to point out to them "the evil of their ways" and endeavour

arown to induce their return to virtue and respectability - It is to be sure revering the order of Nature when we become the Supporters or Instructors of our Parents when they derive their respectability from us rather than we from them yet a warm & noble heart would rejoice in any opportunity of serving them - It is not necessary to make an exact account of the obligations received in order to make a return exactly balanced: however necessary justice may be in our dealings with the World generosity and duty are not graduated to any particular scale of computation but delight in returning favours by the hundredfold The whole soul of the Parent is raised in his Children he estimates their wants and their feelings and takes every method to increase their pleasures and add to their happiness From the love that we bear our Parents we may form some idea of their

affection for ourselves but not until we are Parents can we fully appreciate in all their hopes fears & affections for their offspring

These several duties are to be observed at every period of our lives. a neglect of them may be excuseable in Boyhood but in Men such a neglect would be criminal more especially when old age has unnerved the place of Manhood and infirmities begin to clog the wheels of Existence it then that they most need and that Children should most carefully cherish them never should they be permitted to feel the responsibility of becoming a mere weight and charge to others but love attention and respect should constantly await them, whether in health or in sickness in peace & prosperity or in sorrow and adversity the strong and willing arms of their children should be ever ready for their support

When our conscience tells

us that these obligations have been well discharged that we have in every instance done every thing in our power to make them happy & comfortable. then we confidently look forward to the time when our limbs are stiffened, and our locks whitened like now & expect to receive from our Children a full return of the attention duty Respect and support which we have yielded to our Parents

not justly honoured and respectable character high not only in public opinion but in public honors he has received testimonials of his worth from every quarter of his country and even foreign nations have proffered him tokens of their respect some years since married a Lady of great worth fortune & accomplishments & has been blessed with a numerous & hopeful offspring he passed his early life under many disadvantages his Parents were poor though honest & industrious People and entirely unable to give their son a regular Education it was from a little Com-

boy

free School in one of the New England States that he derived the first principles of knowledge and it was there only that he enjoyed any of the advantages of regular instruction fortunately for him however a clergyman who was established near his native place noticed his fondness for Books and the activity of his mind he recommended a course of reading & gave him the free use of his Library Book, every opportunity of enlarging his views & information. The intervals from the labours of his Fathers little Farm always found Philander deeply engaged in his Library numerous few temptations could induce him to relinquish them & in the midst of other duties he found time to arrange & digest the mental food he had collected in his hours of leisure in process of time his abilities attracted public attention & he was elected to represent his native Town in the State Legislature. there he soon became remarkable for his influence and was selected as a Candi-

date for Congress his Talents & virtues now generally known insured his success & in a few years thereafter obtained Philanders astonished his Countrymen by the depth of his Wisdom & the Thunders of his Eloquence he was next chosen to fill an important Public Station & after serving in it a number of years retired amidst the regret and the admiration of all his Contemporaries notwithstanding all the honors that he has received he has no desire to conceal his humble origin but takes a pride in recommending by his example to the youth who now are as he once was struggling with adversity. Some of his great qualities have done him more honour than his conduct towards his Parents one of his earliest efforts was to relieve them from extreme indigence & his fortune increased he took every method to make their situation comfortable he did not introduce them to the pleasures & follies of the World at their time of life & with their circumstances this would not have increased either their happiness or respectability but he purchased a pretty Estate in the vicinity of the place where he spends his hours of retirement when in the Country not a day elapses but he visits them & yields every mark of filial affection and respect it is an agreeable spectacle to behold the whole

Party assembled the happiness of the good old People & the dutiful attention of the Son. at stated periods Thelander his wife & Children assemble at his Fathers House and pass the day in festivity & rejoicing he has been heard to declare that the hours spent in this agreeable manner & the contentment of his Parents afforded him far more pleasure than all the honours and rewards that have been heaped upon him by a grateful People

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